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United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Letter dated 23 April 2001 from the representatives of Japan and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement by H.E. Mr. George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, and H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Prime Minister of Japan, which was issued after the meeting of the two leaders in Washington, D.C. on 19 March 2001 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 59, 60, 94 and 95, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Satoh**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2001 from the representatives of Japan and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori

19 March 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori today reaffirmed the strength of the bilateral relationship between their two countries. The two leaders expressed their conviction that the United States-Japan relationship is rooted in friendship, mutual trust and shared democratic values. They also concurred that these solid ties enable the two countries to deal with problems such as the regrettable *Ehime Maru* accident. They noted that the United States-Japan alliance is the foundation of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Agreeing that the United States presence remains vital to regional security, the leaders pledged to work together to further strengthen the alliance.

The two leaders, noting that the United States and Japan together account for roughly 40 per cent of the world economy, reaffirmed the importance of working together to promote prosperity in their two countries and around the world. The leaders recognized the need to address the challenges facing their two economies. The Prime Minister reiterated his determination to continue pursuing appropriate economic policies and to promote vigorously structural and regulatory reform to revitalize the Japanese economy and strengthen the financial system, including through effectively addressing the issues of corporate debt and non-performing loans. The President reaffirmed the importance of adopting appropriate policies to support sustainable growth in the United States, which will benefit both countries and the world economy. They agreed on the importance of promoting deregulation, restructuring and foreign direct investment. They agreed to work together to seek new ways to enhance the United States-Japan dialogue to address global, regional and bilateral economic and trade issues, and recognized that bringing views from outside the two Governments into this effort would strengthen the bilateral relationship and improve economic performance in both countries. Both leaders also agreed to work together closely for the launch of a new World Trade Organization round this year.

President Bush and Prime Minister Mori recognized the growing threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. As part of a comprehensive strategy to meet such threats, they agreed on the importance of stepping up diplomatic efforts, including in the field of arms reduction. They also reaffirmed the need to take effective measures to address such threats, including defensive systems, strengthened proliferation controls and counter-proliferation measures. The two leaders noted with satisfaction that the United States and Japan are already conducting cooperative research on ballistic-missile defence technologies. They agreed on the importance of close consultations on missile defence among allies and with other interested parties.

The two leaders noted that uncertainty in the Asia-Pacific region necessitates close bilateral cooperation, including a dynamic approach to bilateral defence

consultation and planning. The two leaders reaffirmed the need to continue to carry out commitments under the 1996 United States-Japan Joint Declaration on Security and related undertakings, such as the new Guidelines for United States-Japan Defence Cooperation and the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) process, that strengthen the alliance, and they agreed to continue to work closely on issues related to Okinawa. The leaders also agreed that strategic dialogue will be an important step in defining how the alliance can best promote stability and address new challenges that may emerge. They pledge to coordinate closely on pressing regional issues and reaffirmed the particular importance of maintaining close consultations and coordination regarding North Korea, both bilaterally and trilaterally with the Republic of Korea.

The President and the Prime Minister recognized the need for the United States and Japan to continue cooperation on global issues, taking note of the important achievements this cooperation has produced thus far. Noting that their two countries are the world's largest aid donors, the leaders agreed to strengthen joint efforts to address the transnational challenges of the twenty-first century. The two leaders expressed their commitment to promote United Nations Security Council reform with the goal of strengthening its effectiveness. In this context, they agreed to continue to work together to obtain for Japan a permanent seat on the Security Council.

The President accepted with gratitude the Prime Minister's invitation for an early visit to Japan.